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In Support of the CIA

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SIR: Senator McCarthy of Minnesota was reported in The Star (May 16) to have questioned the usefulness of CIA activities directed against the infiltration of Estonians by Communist agents.

Nearly all Estonians in the United States are citizens of this country. The senator's intention could hardly have been to single them out as a group whose infiltration by Communist agents is unimportant and not worth the CIA's attention. He, therefore, obviously meant all United States citizens of East-Central European descent. Of these there are many millions. The importance of preventing the infiltration of this large contingent of the United States population by Communist agents can be seen from the following example.

A large part of Americans of East-Central European origin continues to have contacts with relatives and friends in the Communist-dominated countries, mainly through correspondence. Millions of letters are exchanged yearly. It is a fact, of which also the Communist regimes are well aware, that letters coming from countries under their rule to the United States often happen to contain, mostly unintentionally, information of general interest which is consistently not published in these countries, and which is therefore secret by Communist standards, but has slipped through the spot checks of Communist censors. This information, more often than not complete with originating sources, is related here in conversations on social occasions, etc., to persons who are considered to be trustworthy.

It is of utmost importance that all persons who happen to be taken into such confidence are genuinely worthy of trust. An error in judgment may mean several years of imprisonment for many writers of letters in the Communist-dominated area.

Therefore, from a humane point of view alone, efforts to prevent the infiltration of ethnic groups in this country by Communist agents seem to be both important and very welcome.

Heikki A. Leesment,
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